What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method comprising:

2   prompting a first user at a UNIX-based machine for

3   permission for a second user at a machine remotely-located

4   from the UNIX-based machine to control the UNIX-based machine;

5   and

6   if the first user grants permission, enabling the second

7   user to use the UNIX-based machine through the machine

8   remotely-located from the UNIX-based machine.

1   2.   The method of claim 1 in which the prompting

2   comprises making the prompt known to the first user by

3   displaying information on a display of the UNIX-based machine.

1   3.   The method of claim 1 in which the second user uses

2   the UNIX-based machine through the machine remotely-located

3   from the UNIX-based machine as if the second user was directly

4   using the UNIX-based machine.

1   4.   The method of claim 1 further comprising, before the

2   prompting, replicating current contents of a screen on the

3   UNIX-based machine onto a new screen running in a background

4   of the UNIX-based machine.

1   5.   The method of claim 2 further comprising adding to

2   the new screen a prompt that asks the first user for the

3   permission.

1   6.   The method of claim 2 further comprising replacing

2   the current contents of the screen on the UNIX-based machine

3   with the new screen.

1   7.   The method of claim 1 in which the using of the

2   UNIX-based machine includes issuing text commands to the

3   UNIX-based machine from the machine remotely-located from the

4   UNIX-based machine.

1   8.   The method of claim 1 further comprising, if the

2   first user does not grant permission, preventing the second

3   user from using the UNIX-based machine through the machine

4   remotely-located from the UNIX-based machine.

1   9.   The method of claim 1 further comprising, if the

2   first user at the UNIX-based machine does not respond to the

3   prompting within a certain threshold time, enabling by default

4   the second user to use the UNIX-based machine.

1   10.   The method of claim 1 in which the prompting is

2   text-based.

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1   11.   An article comprising:

2   a machine-readable medium which stores machine-executable

3   instructions, the instructions causing a machine to:

4   prompt a first user at a UNIX-based machine for

5   permission for a second user at a machine remotely-located

6   from the UNIX-based machine to control the UNIX-based machine;

7   and

8   if the first user grants permission, enable the

9   second user to use the UNIX-based machine through the machine

10   remotely-located from the UNIX-based machine.

1   12.   The article of claim 11 in which the prompting

2   includes making the prompt known to the first user by

3   displaying information on a display of the UNIX-based machine.

1   13.   The article of claim 11 in which the second user

2   uses the UNIX-based machine through the machine

3   remotely-located from the UNIX-based machine as if the second

4   user was directly using the UNIX-based machine.

1   14.   The article of claim 11 further causing a machine

2   to, before the prompting, replicate current contents of a

3   screen on the UNIX-based machine onto a new screen running in

4   a background of the UNIX-based machine.

1   15.   The article of claim 14 further causing a machine to

2   add to the new screen a prompt that asks the first user for

3   the permission.

1   16.   The method of claim 14 further causing a machine to

2   replace the current contents of the screen on the UNIX-based

3   machine with the new screen.

1   17.   The article of claim 11 in which the using of the

2   UNIX-based machine includes issuing text commands to the

3   UNIX-based machine from the machine remotely-located from the

4   UNIX-based machine.

1   18.   The article of claim 11 further causing a machine

2   to, if the first user does not grant permission, prevent the

3   second user from using the UNIX-based machine through the

4   machine remotely-located from the UNIX-based machine.

1   19.   The article of claim 11 further causing a machine

2   to, if the first user at the UNIX-based machine does not

3   respond to the prompting within a certain threshold time,

4   enable by default the second user to use the UNIX-based

5   machine.

1   20.   The article of claim 11 in which the prompting is

2   text-based.

1   21.   A system comprising:

2   a first device configured to run UNIX; and

3   a mechanism accessible by the first device and configured

4   to run a process on the first device transparently to a user

5   of the first device, the process configured to prompt the user

6   of the first device for permission for a remote user at a

7   second device at a location remote from the first device to

8   input instructions to the first device from the second device.

1   22.   The system of claim 21 in which the process is also

2   configured to, if the user of the first device grants

3   permission, enable the remote user to use the first device

4   through the second device as if the remote user was directly

5   using the first device.

1   23.   The system of claim 21 further comprising a second

2   mechanism accessible by the second device and configured to

3   notify the first device when the remote user desires to input

4   instructions to the first device from the second device.

1   24.   The system of claim 21 in which the process is also

2   configured to continuously runs on the first device.

1   25.   A method comprising:

2   replicating current contents of a display screen visible

3   to a user on a UNIX-based device onto a new screen not visible

4   on the display screen to the user;

5   inserting a prompt on the new screen to a user of the

6   UNIX-based device to grant permission for a remote device at a

7   location remote from the UNIX-based device to control the

8   UNIX-based device; and

9   replacing the current contents of the display screen with

10   the new screen, the new screen visible to the user on the

11   UNIX-based device.

1   26.   The method of claim 25 further comprising, after the

2   user responds to the prompt, returning the UNIX-based device

3   back to the current contents of the display screen.

1   27.   A method comprising:

2   replicating current contents of a screen on a UNIX-based

3   machine onto a new screen running in a background of the

4   UNIX-based machine;

5   adding to the new screen a text prompt prompting a first

6   user at the UNIX-based machine for permission for a second

7   user at a machine remotely-located from the UNIX-based machine

8   to control the UNIX-based machine; and

9   replacing the current contents of the screen with the new

10   screen.

1   28.   The method of claim 27 further comprising

2   determining if the second user may control the UNIX-based

3   machine based on a response to the text prompt by the first

4   user.

1   29.   A method comprising:

2   requesting at a machine to remotely control a UNIX-based

3   machine at a location remote from the machine; and

4   determining whether the machine may remotely control the

5   UNIX-based machine based on a response from the UNIX-based

6   machine.

1   30.   The method of claim 29 in which remotely controlling

2   the UNIX-based machine includes issuing text commands to the

3   UNIX-based machine from the machine.